

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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21512 3/17/73

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 049952

EXDIS TOECO 002

E. O. 11652

TAGS: OVIP, ( CASEY, WILLIAM)

SUBJ: SPECIAL SUMMARY NO. 1

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### 1. OPEC REPRESENTATIVES MEET IN VIENNA

REPRESENTATIVES OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES

BEGAN A SPECIAL MEETING IN VIENNA ON MARCH 16 TO DEAL  
WITH THE ENERGY CRISIS, INCLUDING A CONSIDERATION OF A  
BLUEPRINT PROGRAM FOR GREATER CONSERVATION AND  
NEW EXPLORATION. THE CONFERENCE WILL ALSO CONSIDER  
THE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR.  
( UNCLASSIFIED) REUTER 109, 3/16.

### 2. REACTIONS TO VENEZUELAN OIL TAX INCREASES

OIL INDUSTRY SOURCES IN VENEZUELA ARE SAYING THAT  
THE INCREASES IN OIL TAX REFERENCE VALUES  
ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 13 ARE VERY HIGH AND COULD ADVERSE-  
LY AFFECT THE COMPETITIVE POSITION OF VENEZUELAN OIL.  
EMBASSY CARACAS REPORTS THE COMPANIES ARE ALSO STATING  
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THAT THE INCREASED TAXES PLACE THE INDUSTRY IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BECAUSE US PRICE CONTROLS MAY PREVENT THE COMPANIES FROM PASSING ON COST INCREASES TO CUSTOMERS IN THE US.( UNCLASSIFIED) CARACAS 2313, 3/16.

3. BOLIVIANS UNHAPPY OVER TIN DECISION

PRESIDENT BANZER OF BOLIVIA HAS TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HOPES PRESIDENT NIXON WILL NOT CARRY OUT THE DECISION TO SELL STRATEGIC TIN RESERVES BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD " DO ENORMOUS DAMAGE TO BOLIVIA," REPORTS EMBASSY LA PAZ. ONE NEWSPAPER DESCRIBES THE PROPOSED SALE AS " VIRTUAL ECONOMIC AGGRESSION ". THE BOLIVIAN PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT TIN PRICES HAVE ALREADY DROPPED FROM ABOUT TWO DOLLARS TO 1.87 DOLLARS PER POUND ON THE LONDON EXCHANGE. ( UNCLASSIFIED) LA PAZ 1511, 3/17.

4. SAIGON' S AID EXPECTATIONS

EMBASSY SAIGON HAS BEEN INFORMED BY GVN OFFICIALS THAT PRESIDENT THIEU WILL ASK FOR 250 MILLION DOLLARS MORE ECONOMIC SUPPORT FROM THE US AND OTHER DONORS IN CY 1973. THIEU IS ALSO EXPECTED TO " PUT ON THE TABLE " AN AID REQUEST OF 4.7 BILLION DOLLARS FOR FIVE YEARS ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTS NO CONCRETE ASSURANCES FOR THIS LONGER RUN. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT THIEU WILL ASK HOW BEST TO APPROACH THE JAPANESE FOR RECONSTRUCTION AID. ( SECRET) SAIGON 4386, 3/17, ( EXDIS).

5. EC POSTPONES DECISION ON RECOGNITION OF HANOI

A BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY BRUSSELS THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS DECIDED ON MARCH 16 THAT NO MESSAGES CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM WILL BE SENT MARCH 19 AS WAS SCHEDULED. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THIS DECISION WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. ( SECRET) BRUSSELS 1440, 3/17 ( EXDIS).

6. RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

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A FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAS INFORMED EMBASSY  
HELSINKI THAT THE NORDIC COUNTRIES WILL ANNOUNCE  
SIMULTANEOUS RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA AT A NORDIC  
FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN OSLO AT THE END OF MARCH.  
FINLAND, WHICH PRESENTLY RECOGNIZES NEITHER KOREA,  
WILL RECOGNIZE BOTH. ( CONFIDENTIAL) HELSINKI 427,3/16.  
ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** hilburpw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** RR  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hilburpw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <07-Aug-2001 by hilburpw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971210  
**Subject:** SPECIAL SUMMARY NO. 1  
**TAGS:** OVIP, (CASEY, WILLIAM)  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005